



# Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Bruning Announces Sentence for Drunk Driver**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that Joshua Westover of Pawnee City, Neb. has been sentenced to five to ten years in prison for causing the death of his friend, Aaron Rabstejnek. In September, Westover, 27, pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter, a Class III felony, before Pawnee County District Court Judge Daniel Bryan.

“This case is a tragic reminder of what can occur when someone makes the decision to drink too much and get behind the wheel of an automobile,” Bruning said. “While nothing can make up for Mr. Westover’s fateful decision, I hope this sentence can somehow help the Rabstejnek family begin their healing process.”

The case against Westover stemmed from an accident that occurred during the early morning hours of August 12, 2006 near Table Rock, Neb. Westover was driving with his friend, Rabstejnek, 27, who occupied the vehicle’s front passenger seat. As Westover came upon the intersection of Highway 4 and 624<sup>th</sup> Avenue he ignored a posted stop sign and collided with a vehicle driven by Milan Tomek of Table Rock. As a result of the collision, Rabstejnek, was ejected from the vehicle and fatally injured. Tomek, 71, was also seriously hurt in the collision but survived his injuries. Following treatment for only minor injuries, Westover underwent sobriety testing that later revealed that his b.a.c., .214, was more than double the legal .08 threshold at the time of the accident.

The case was handled by Assistant Attorney General Corey O’Brien.

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